

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, October 27, 2016

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Michael Bisi, Richard Lepore, Stathis Manousos, Tom Mull, Tom Ragonese and Dan Silbo. Also present were Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, Tony Ruggiero, Deputy Harbormaster, and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – September 22, 2016.

Chairperson Ragonese had some questions from the minutes. He asked about the status of the private docks at the 1860 Reservoir. Ms. Bagley has not heard anything back yet from town staff. They were still researching the issue. She will follow up with staff. His next question was where do the work orders that residents file on the town website end up. No information yet, but Ms. Bagley will follow up on this question too. He asked the status of the Community Theater program and when this program would seek sponsorship from the Board. Ms. Bagley reported that she has a meeting with the key people tomorrow and anticipates that it will be on the agenda for the November 17 meeting. Also, he inquired on the status of the new roof at Willard Pool. The roof is complete.

Mike Bisi moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – September 2016.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. Chairperson Ragonese asked for any comments or questions. Discussion was held on the Keane After School Programs, the Keane Carnival, vacation programs and the new Halloween event – Trunk or Treat.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Halloween Event – Trunk or Treat – October 29 at Community Center – noon to 2 p.m.

Ms. Bagley reported that this is a new event the staff has planned for celebrating Halloween. It takes the place of the children's Halloween party. In recent years the party attendance was decreasing and staff are trying something different. This event is very successful in other communities. The event has other town departments involved including the Police, Fire, Library and Social & Youth Services. Activities include an inflatable slide, face painting, Halloween stories, a dance party with the Library and trick or treating to the cars in the parking lot at the Community Center.

2. Membership List with 2017 Meeting Dates.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the information on the membership list and the meeting dates for 2017. Corrections will be made to the list.

E. Old Business.

1. High School Pool Status.

Chairperson Ragonese announced that the high school pool had opened. The girls' varsity swim team held their practices and meets beginning October 20 and the Parks and Recreation Department had their Swim Stroke Clinic at the pool this week. Plans are to open the pool on November 1 for the Barracuda's Swim Team and public swimming. New lighting was installed as part of the construction and it has really brightened the facility.

F. New Business.

1. Fall Projects.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for a status report on the fall projects. She reported that the following projects are underway and should be completed in a few weeks.

- a. Montanaro Soccer Field – irrigation, deep tine aerate, top-dress sand and sand injection. Also a protective barrier of telephone poles with cradles will be used to keep vehicles off the field. Contractor is scheduled to start next week. Mr. Manousos asked to consider allowing parking at a 90° angle off the park road prior to putting down the protective barrier. Ms. Bagley will review that request with the contractor. It may depend on the sprinkler locations.
- b. Mill Woods Park – fencing work is scheduled to start shortly. It will include the last section of pool fence from the Fire Department dry hydrants to the dam; three new backstops and player bench protection at Softball Fields #3, 4 & 5 and Fusco Field bleacher protection on the first base side. Concrete pads for new bleachers will be installed at Fusco Field. New bleachers have been purchased and will be installed in the spring.
Completed projects include:
 - c. Mill Woods Tennis Courts – courts have had all cracks repaired and colorcoated. Courts look great.
 - d. Mill Woods Swim Center – three new trees were planted outside the fence by the parking lot. They replaced trees that had to be cut down. Grass was planted inside the facility between the bathhouse and docks. Grass is growing very well and will be overseeded again in the spring.
 - e. Willard Pool – has a new roof and the bathhouse wall facing the pool has been replaced. The existing wall was made of translucent wall panels. They have been removed and cement blocks and glass blocks have been installed. The new roof has skylights to provide additional light in the bathhouse. Mr. Bisi asked if a list could be provided of current CIP projects, their status and which department is responsible for completing the project.

2. Meeting Location for November 17th Meeting.

Ms. Bagley explained that conference room 1 is not available for the November meeting. She asked board members if the lunch room opposite the elevator would suffice for their meeting. They agreed to hold the meeting in this room.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the report with commission members and Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick and Deputy Harbormaster Tony Ruggiero. Mr. Forsdick reported that four boats have been granted permission to stay on their moorings a little longer. A sailboat has not been removed and efforts to reach the owner have been unsuccessful. Mr. Ruggiero has secured the sailboat. The next step is to have staff consult with Police/Town Attorney to determine how to reach owner and have the sailboat removed from the Cove. Mr. Forsdick informed the members that a mooring buoy used to secure one of the SeaFlex lines on shore is missing. He will work with staff to replace the buoy and use chain and a lock for a more secure system. Mr. Ruggiero provided information on the status of the channel markers on the river. He explained that he has reported their condition to the Coast Guard. It is the Harbormaster's responsibility to notify the Coast Guard when the markers are not working properly.

Ms. Bagley distributed a draft high water access policy for the Cove dock based on Mr. Forsdick's initial draft. She also distributed Mr. Forsdick's draft. She suggested that Board members review the policy for discussion at their next meeting. Board members concurred.

Mr. Forsdick discussed developing a plan to look at acquiring a boat for spring 2017. He suggested that perhaps the Harbormasters could purchase the boat. He asked if the town would cover maintenance costs. Chairperson Ragonese asked if other Harbormasters own their boats or have one provided. Mr. Forsdick said that some do. The more active commercial harbors get a boat, sometimes through grants.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to do a survey of Harbormasters with harbors similar to the Cove with a mooring field and report back in one to two months. Some questions to ask would include do they have a boat; who owns the boat; who provides maintenance and insurance.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Rich Lepore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mike Bisi and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks and Recreation Department